

If your cannula comes out or if the bung falls off:

- You must apply pressure to the insertion site immediately.
- Raise your arm and continue to apply direct pressure until any bleeding stops. Use the gauze and tape provided.
- If the bung comes loose or falls off, you may bleed from the cannula. Apply pressure to your arm above the cannula site and replace the bung immediately with the spare supplied.

When any bleeding has stopped the site can be cleaned and dressed.

If the bleeding does not stop or you need extra support:

- Please contact the Virtual Ward Team on 07500 814 560 between the hours of 8am-6pm, seven days a week,

Further sources of information

NHS Choices: www.nhs.uk/conditions
Our website: www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk

Patient Experience Team (PET)

PET are available to help with any of your compliments, concerns or complaints:

King’s Mill Hospital: 01623 672222
Newark Hospital: 01636 685692
Email: sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net

If you would like this information in an alternative format, for example large print or easy read, or if you need help with communicating with us, for example because you use British Sign Language, please let us know. You can call the Patient Experience Team on 01623 672222 or email sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net.

This document is intended for information purposes only and should not replace advice that your relevant health professional would give you. External websites may be referred to in specific cases. Any external websites are provided for your information and convenience. We cannot accept responsibility for the information found on them. If you require a full list of references (if relevant) for this leaflet, please email sfh-tr.patientinformation@nhs.net or telephone 01623 622515, extension 6927.

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Information for patients

SFH@Home

Leaving hospital with a cannula



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What is a peripheral intravenous (IV) cannula?

An IV cannula is a small, soft plastic tube that is inserted through your skin and sits in a small vein.

It allows medication to be given safely into that vein.

Why do I need a cannula?

A doctor or clinician has prescribed a dose, or a course, of treatment for you that needs to be delivered intravenously.

The IV delivery route for medications is sometimes preferred, as it can be more effective than the oral route (tablets).

How long will I need to have this cannula for?

Your cannula will be removed at the earliest opportunity, once it is no longer needed.

Looking after your cannula

It is important that you understand how to take care of your cannula to help prevent it from coming out or increasing your risk of any infection/complications.

Keep the cannula clean and dry. Do not directly apply water onto the cannula or the dressing.

If the dressing starts to peel or come away from the skin, secure it with the tape provided, until a new dressing can be applied.

Protect your cannula. Try to wear loose arm clothing to help prevent the cannula catching.

Try to avoid excessive bending of the wrist or elbow joint where the cannula is situated. Avoid physical sports and do not swim with it in.

Never attempt to flush or put anything through your cannula.

Possible risks and complications

Every invasive procedure carries some risk and the possibility of complications. Having a cannula is a relatively simple and safe process with very few risks. Your cannula dressing is clear, this is so that you can observe the insertion site and monitor it for any signs of infection.

If you experience any of the following symptoms, you should let your nurse or doctor know as soon as possible:

- A burning sensation, swelling, redness around and at the cannula site.
- Continued pain where the cannula is located.
- Pain or discomfort when medication is delivered through the cannula.
- You have a raised temperature, feeling feverish or shaky.